

From *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

"The silence was delicate. Auntie Ifeoma was scraping a burnt pot in the kitchen, and the kroo-kroo of the metal spoon on the pot seemed intrusive. Amaka and Papa-Nnukwu spoke sometimes, their voices low, twining together. They understood each other, using the sparest words."

**TASK:** Identify and explain the use of onomatopoeia in this passage.

1

From *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen

NURSE: At last I have found the box with the fancy dress.

NORA: Thanks; put it on the table.

NURSE (doing so): But it is very much in want of mending.

NORA: I should like to tear it into a hundred thousand pieces.

NURSE: What an idea! It can easily be put in order-- just a little patience.

**TASK:** Identify and explain the element of figurative language within this passage.

2

From *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

"Well. He's a very sensitive boy. He's really never been a terribly good mixer with other boys. Perhaps he takes things a little more seriously than he should at his age."

Sensitive. That killed me. That guy Morrow was about as sensitive as a goddam toilet seat.

I gave her a good look. She didn't look like any dope to me. She looked like she might have a pretty damn good idea what a bastard she was the mother of. But you can't always tell--with somebody's mother, I mean. Mothers are all slightly insane."

**TASK:** Identify and explain the simile used in this passage.

3

From *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

External heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge. No warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill him. No wind that blew was bitterer than he, no falling snow was more intent upon its purpose, no pelting rain less open to entreaty. Foul weather didn't know where to have him.

**TASK:** Identify and explain the use of alliteration used in this passage.

4

From *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton

"When I had been there a little longer, and had seen this phase of crystal clearness followed by long stretches of sunless cold; when the storms of February had pitched their white tents about the devoted village and the wild cavalry of March winds had charged down to their support."

**TASK:** Identify and explain the element of figurative language found in this passage.

5

From *The Importance of Being Ernest* by Oscar Wilde

"Ignorance is like a delicate exotic fruit; touch it, and the bloom is gone."

**TASK:** Identify and explain the element of figurative language within this passage.

6

From *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare

"My father's brother, but no more like my father  
Than I to Hercules"

**TASK:** Identify and explain the allusion used in this passage.

7

From *The Mayor of Casterbridge* by Thomas Hardy

"Casterbridge, as has been hinted, was a place deposited in the block upon a cornfield. There was no suburb in the modern sense, or transitional intermixture of town and down. It stood, with regard to the wide fertile land adjoining, clean-cut and distinct, like a chess-board on a green table-cloth."

**TASK:** Identify and explain the effect of the literary device used in the underlined words.

8

From *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll

The Queen turned crimson with fury, and, after glaring at her for a moment like a wild beast, screamed `Off with her head! Off--'

`Nonsense!' said Alice, very loudly and decidedly, and the Queen was silent.

The King laid his hand upon her arm, and timidly said `Consider, my dear: she is only a child!'

**TASK:** Identify and explain the element of figurative language found in this passage.

9

From *Animal Farm* by George Orwell

"A too rigid equality in rations, Squealer explained, would have been contrary to the principles of Animalism. In any case he had no difficulty in proving to the other animals that they were *not* in reality short of food, whatever the appearances might be. For the time being, certainly, it had been found necessary to make a readjustment of rations."

**TASK:** Identify and explain the use of euphemism within this passage.

10

From *Emma* by Jane Austen

"I have none of the usual inducements of women to marry. Were I to fall in love, indeed, it would be a different thing! but I never have been in love; it is not my way, or my nature; and I do not think I ever shall. And, without love, I am sure I should be a fool to change such a situation as mine."

**TASK:** Identify and explain the alliteration used in the second sentence of this passage.

11

From *The Mayor of Casterbridge* by Thomas Hardy

"A street of farmers' homesteads – a street ruled by a mayor and corporation, yet echoing with the thump of the flail, the flutter of the winnowing-fan, and the purr of the milk into the pails – a street which had nothing urban in it whatever – this was the Durnover end of Casterbridge."

**TASK:** Identify and explain the onomatopoeia used in this passage.

12

From *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

"The lawn started at the beach and ran toward the front door for a quarter of a mile, jumping over sundials and brick walks and burning gardens--finally when it reached the house drifting up the side in bright vines as though from the momentum of its run."

**TASK:** Identify and explain the element of figurative language found in this passage.

**13**

From *Animal Farm* by George Orwell

"Mr. Jones, of the Manor Farm, had locked the hen-houses for the night, but was too drunk to remember to shut the popholes. With the ring of light from his lantern dancing from side to side, he lurched across the yard, kicked off his boots at the back door, drew himself a last glass of beer from the barrel in the scullery, and made his way up to bed, where Mrs. Jones was already snoring."

**TASK:** Identify and explain the element of figurative language used in this passage.

**14**

From *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan

"And after that I began to see terrible things. I saw these things with my Chinese eyes, the part of me I got from my mother. I saw devils dancing feverishly beneath a hole I had dug in the sandbox. I saw that lightning had eyes and searched to strike down little children."

**TASK:** Identify and explain the metaphor used in the above passage.

**15**

From *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

"Suddenly Lennie appeared out of the brush, and he came as silently as a creeping bear moves. The heron pounded the air with its wings, jacked itself clear of the water and flew off down river. The little snake slid in among the reeds at the pool's side. Lennie came quietly to the pool's edge. He knelt down and drank, barely touching his lips to the water."

**TASK:** Identify and explain the element of figurative language found in the above passage.

**16**

From *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

"The book I was reading was this book I took out of the library by mistake. They gave me the wrong book, and I didn't notice it till I got back to my room. They gave me *Out of Africa*, by Isak Dinesen. I thought it was going to stink, but it didn't. It was a very good book. I'm quite illiterate, but I read a lot."

**TASK:** Identify and explain the **paradox** found in this passage.

17

From *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen

HELMER [*following her*]: Come, come, my little skylark must not droop her wings. What is this! Is my little squirrel out of temper? [*Taking out his purse.*] Nora, what do you think I have got here?  
NORA [*turning round quickly*]: Money!  
HELMER: There you are. [*Gives her some money.*] Do you think I don't know what a lot is wanted for housekeeping at Christmas-time?  
NORA [*counting*]: Ten shillings--a pound--two pounds! Thank you, thank you, Torvald; that will keep me going for a long time.

**TASK:** Identify and explain one of the **metaphors** used in the above passage.

18

From *The Importance of Being Ernest* by Oscar Wilde

ALGERNON: Besides, your name isn't Jack at all; it is Ernest.

JACK: It isn't Ernest; it's Jack.

ALGERNON: You have always told me it was Ernest. I have introduced you to everyone as Ernest. You answer to the name of Ernest. You look as if your name was Ernest. You are the most earnest-looking person I ever saw in my life. It is perfectly absurd your saying that your name isn't Ernest.

**TASK:** Identify and explain the device used in the underlined portion of the above passage.

19

From *Emma* by Jane Austen

"Harriet was one of those, who, having once begun, would be always in love. And now, poor girl! she was considerably worse from this re-appearance of Mr. Elton. She was always having a glimpse of him somewhere or other. Emma saw him only once; but two or three times every day Harriet was sure just to meet with him, or just to miss him, just to hear his voice, or see his shoulder, just to have something occur to preserve him in her fancy, in all the favouring warmth of surprize and conjecture."

**TASK:** Identify and explain the element of figurative language underlined in the above passage.

20

From *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

"Above, clouds like dyed cotton wool hang low, so low I feel I can reach out and squeeze the moisture from them. The new rains will come down soon."

**TASK:** Identify and explain the element of figurative language found in the above extract. **21**

From *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

"And so it happened that on a warm windy evening I drove over to East Egg to see two old friends whom I scarcely knew at all. Their house was even more elaborate than I expected, a cheerful red-and-white Georgian Colonial mansion, overlooking the bay."

**TASK:** Identify and explain the element of figurative language used in the above passage. **22**

From *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

"She was very pretty and simple, and her face was sweet and young. Now her rouged cheeks and her reddened lips made her seem alive and sleeping very lightly. The curls, tiny little sausages, were spread on the hay behind her head, and her lips were parted"

**TASK:** Identify and explain the **metaphor** used in the underlined portion of the above passage. **23**

From *Fences* by August Wilson

TROY: Death ain't nothing. I done seen him. Done wrassled with him. You can't tell me nothing about death. Death ain't nothing but a fastball on the outside corner. And you know what I'll do to that!

**TASK:** Identify and explain the element of figurative language underlined in the above passage. **24**

From *Fences* by August Wilson

TROY: Look here, Bono. . . I looked up one day and Death was marching straight at me. Like Soldiers on Parade! The Army of Death was marching straight at me. The middle of July, 1941. It got real cold just like it be winter. It seem like Death himself reached out and touched me on the shoulder. He touch me just like I touch you. I got cold as ice and Death standing there grinning.

**TASK:** Identify and explain the personification found in this passage.

25

From *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare

“O, my offence is rank it smells to heaven;  
It hath the primal eldest curse upon't,  
A brother's murder.”

**TASK:** Identify and explain the allusion used in the above passage.

26

From *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton

“They were silent again. They had reached the point where the road dipped to the hollow by Ethan's mill and as they descended the darkness descended with them, dropping down like a black veil from the heavy hemlock boughs.”

**TASK:** Identify and explain the simile used in the above passage.

27

From *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

“Yet Mr. Dimmesdale would perhaps have seen this individual's character more perfectly, if a certain morbidness, to which sick hearts are liable, had not rendered him suspicious of all mankind. Trusting no man as his friend, he could not recognize his enemy when the latter actually appeared.”

**TASK:** Identify and explain the irony used in the above passage.

28

From *1984* by George Orwell

“War is peace  
freedom is slavery  
ignorance is strength”

**TASK:** Identify and explain the element of figurative language found in this extract.

**29**

From *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

George said, "He's my... cousin. I told his old lady I'd take care of him. He got kicked in the head by a horse when he was a kid. He's awright. Just ain't bright. But he can do anything you tell him."

The boss turned half away. "Well God know he don't need any brains to buck barley bags. But don't you try to put nothing over, Milton. I got my eye on you."

**TASK:** Identify and explain the **alliteration** used in the above passage.

**30**

From *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan

“And on that day, I showed Second Wife the fake pearl necklace she had given me crushed under my foot. And on that day, Second Wife's hair began to turn white. And on that day, I learned to shout.”

**TASK:** Identify and explain the element of figurative language used in the above excerpt.

**31**

From *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

“I bought a dozen volumes on banking and credit and investment securities, and they stood on my shelf in red and gold like new money from the mint.”

**TASK:** Identify and explain the element of figurative language used in the above extract.

**32**